

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 11 and 14 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An airlock system utilizable with a protected Toxic Free Area (TFA) defined by an enclosure, said airlock system comprising:

spaced-apart first and second door arrangements, each door arrangement having an entrance and an exit and being divided by partitions into a plurality of ~~sections~~ compartments;

an airlock space coupled to, and bridging between, said first and second door arrangement;

at least the exit of said second door being connectable to the protected TFA, while the first door arrangement having ~~its~~ an entrance located outside said TFA₇, and

a first additional door arrangement and airlock space coupled to the entrance of said first door arrangement and a second additional airlock space and a door arrangement coupled to said second door arrangement, so as to form a closed system having a sequence of n door arrangements alternating with -1 airlock spaces, wherein n is an integer number;

the arrangement being such that there is no direct airflow from the entrance of said first door arrangement to the exit of said second door arrangement.

2. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein there are provided means for creating overpressure in the TFA and air is directed from the TFA through the entrance of said second door arrangement towards the exit of said first door arrangement.

3. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said air is propelled by ~~means of~~ at least one of at least one blower ~~and/or~~ and an overpressure regulating valve.

4. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said airlock space ~~having~~ has side walls, a floor and a ceiling, further comprising a purging device directing air to at least one of along ~~and/or~~ and across said space.

5. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said air is directed from the ceiling towards the floor via a filter/blower.

6. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and second door arrangement is a rotating door.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The system as claimed in claim 6,~~
~~comprising~~ An airlock system utilizable with a protected Toxic Free
Area (TFA) defined by an enclosure, said airlock system comprising:
spaced-apart first and second door arrangements, each
door arrangement having an entrance and an exit and being divided
by partitions into a plurality of compartments; an airlock space
coupled to, and bridging between, said first and second door
arrangement;

at least the exit of said second door being connectable
to the protected TFA, while the first door arrangement having an
entrance located outside said TFA;

wherein at least one ~~section~~ compartment between two
adjacent partitions in any one of said rotating doors is fitted
with a purging device.

8. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 7,
wherein said purging device comprises a perforated ceiling, a
rotatable perforated floor and channel portions alternately
interconnecting spaces above the ceiling and below the floor
bridging two adjacent ~~sections~~ compartments, so as to facilitate
purging air to meander from the ceiling of one ~~section~~ compartment
downwards towards the floor and then upwards towards the ceiling of
an adjacent ~~section~~ compartment.

9. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 7, further comprising pipes interconnecting channel portions above the ceiling and below the floor of adjacent sections, so as to direct air from below the floor portion to above a ceiling portion of an adjacent ~~section~~ compartment.

10. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim ~~± 7~~, further comprising a first additional door arrangement and airlock space coupled to the entrance of said first door arrangement and a second additional airlock space and a door arrangement coupled to said second door arrangement, so as to form a closed system having a sequence of n door arrangements alternating with -1 airlock spaces, wherein n is an integer number.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for facilitating entrance and egress from a Toxic Free Area (TFA) defined by an enclosure, without the danger of contamination of the protected TFA, said method comprising:

providing at least one airlock system including spaced-apart first and second door arrangements each having an entrance and an exit and being divided by partitions into a plurality of ~~sections~~ compartments, and an airlock space coupled to, and bridging between, said first and second door arrangements, and

coupling a first additional door arrangement and airlock space to the entrance of said first door arrangement and coupling a second additional airlock space and a door arrangement to said second door arrangement, so as to form a closed system having a sequence of n door arrangements alternating with -1 airlock spaces, wherein n is an integer number;

operationally interconnecting said TFA with said system so that at least the exit of said second door arrangement being connectable to the protected TFA, while the first door arrangement having its entrance located outside said TFA, and

directing toxic-free airflow from the entrance of said second door arrangement to the exit of said first door arrangement.

12. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said toxic-free air is directed from said TFA.

13. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said air is propelled at a rate higher than 0.3 m/s.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein there is provided at least one purging device associated with at least one of a door arrangement ~~and/or~~ and an airlock space, and during operation, directing air to at least one

of through ~~and/or~~ and across at least one of said door arrangement ~~and/or~~ and space for purging persons passing therethrough.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein purging air flowing through said door arrangement is propelled from one ~~section~~ compartment to another via perforated ceilings and floors having channel portions interconnecting two adjacent compartments.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as claim in claim 14, wherein purging air flowing through said door arrangement is propelled from one compartment to another via pipes extending from a channel under a perforated floor area in one compartment, to a channel above the ceiling area of an adjacent ~~section~~ compartment, wherein said channels bridge two adjacent sections] compartments.

17. (New) An airlock system utilizable with a protected Toxic Free Area (TFA) defined by an enclosure comprising:

spaced-apart first and second door arrangements, each door arrangement having an entrance and an exit and being divided by partitions into a plurality of compartments;

said compartments defining, in cross-section, a truncated segment of a circle;

an airlock space coupled to, and bridging between, said first and second door arrangement;

at least the exit of said second door being connectable to the protected TFA, while the first door arrangement having its entrance located outside said TFA;

the arrangement being such that there is no direct airflow from the entrance of said first door arrangement to the exit of said second door arrangement.

18. (New) An airlock system utilizable with a protected Toxic Free Area (TFA) defined by an enclosure comprising:

spaced-apart first and second door arrangements, each door arrangement having an entrance and an exit and being divided by more than four partitions into a plurality of compartments;

an airlock space coupled to, and bridging between, said first and second door arrangement;

at least the exit of said second door being connectable to the protected TFA, while the first door arrangement having its entrance located outside said TFA;

the arrangement being such that there is no direct airflow from the entrance of said first door arrangement to the exit of said second door arrangement.

19. (New) An airlock system utilizable with a protected Toxic Free Area (TFA) defined by an enclosure, said airlock system comprising:

spaced-apart first and second door arrangements, each door arrangement having an entrance and an exit and being divided by partitions into a plurality of sections;

an airlock space coupled to, and bridging between, said first and second door arrangement;

at least the exit of said second door being connectable to the protected TFA, while the first door arrangement having an entrance located outside said TFA;

the arrangement being such that there is no direct airflow from the entrance of said first door arrangement to the exit of said second door arrangement;

at least one of said first and second door arrangement being a rotating door; and

at least one section between two adjacent partitions in any one of said rotating doors being fitted with a purging device.

20. (New) A method for facilitating entrance and egress from a Toxic Free Area (TFA) defined by an enclosure, without the danger of contamination of the protected TFA, said method comprising:

providing at least one airlock system including spaced-apart first and second door arrangements each having an entrance and an exit and being divided by partitions into a plurality of sections, and an airlock space coupled to, and bridging between, said first and second door arrangements;

operationally interconnecting said TFA with said system so that at least the exit of said second door arrangement being connectable to the protected TFA, while the first door arrangement having its entrance located outside said TFA;

directing toxic-free airflow from the entrance of said second door arrangement to the exit of said first door arrangement;

providing at least one purging device associated with at least one of a door arrangement and an airlock space, and during operation, directing air to at least one of through and across at least one of said door arrangement and space for purging persons passing therethrough; and

propelling purging air flowing through said door arrangement from one section to another via perforated ceilings and floors having channel portions interconnecting two adjacent sections.

21. (New) A method for facilitating entrance and egress from a Toxic Free Area (TFA) defined by an enclosure, without the

danger of contamination of the protected TFA, said method comprising:

providing at least one airlock system including spaced-apart first and second door arrangements each having an entrance and an exit and being divided by partitions into a plurality of sections, and an airlock\space coupled to, and bridging between, said first and second door arrangements;

operationally interconnecting said TFA with said system so that at least the exit of said second door arrangement being connectable to the protected TFA, while the first door arrangement having its entrance located outside said TFA;

directing toxic-free airflow from the entrance of said second door arrangement to the exit of said first door arrangement;

providing at least one purging device associated with at least one of a door arrangement and an airlock space, and during operation, directing air to at least one of through and across at least one of said door arrangement and space for purging persons passing therethrough; and

propelling purging air flowing through said door arrangement from one section to another via pipes extending from a channel under a perforated floor area in one section, to a channel above the ceiling area of an adjacent section, wherein said channels bridge two adjacent sections.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

A Letter to the Official Draftsman is attached with proposed drawing corrections to Figure 1.

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes Figs. 1 and 2, replaces the original sheet of Figs. 1 and 2.